

KDLA Report

Report to the KLA Board
Mar. 16, 2013

2013 Legislative Session

Much of our attention over the past few months has been devoted to preparing for and dealing with issues in the 2013 session. I don't think there has been a session since the late 1950's with issues that are so significant for public libraries.

- HB1 was a result of the State Auditor's survey of special districts and attempted to provide transparency and accountability for special districts. HB1 provided for a database of fiscal information about all special districts, mandated compliance with state law by special districts, required adoption of the county's ethics code by special districts, and clarified existing statutes. HB1 passed the House almost unanimously but the Senate adopted a substitute bill which would give the fiscal court authority to repeal tax increases by special districts. As neither house would accept the other version, a conference committee was appointed. The compromise which was achieved on Tuesday kept the HB1 in place with a few modifications. While we are still reading through the compromise, the major points appear to be:
 - Fiscal courts cannot refuse or repeal tax increases
 - Limits for annual audits were reduced to \$500,000
 - Full audits must be provided to the state
 - Taxing districts must appear annually at a Fiscal Court meeting to report and also file a written report
 - Tax increases above the compensating rate will require a public hearing before a regularly scheduled fiscal court meeting
- SB20 was proposed to give the County Judge Executive authority to reject nominees chosen by the Library Boards for appointment as trustees and appoint whomever he/she desires. This bill was called up in the Senate Committee, but failed to obtain enough votes to pass out of the committee, unlike the 2012 session in which it was passed by the Senate.
- SB48 was proposed to allow the 14 counties without a library district to create a library district under control of the fiscal court. The bill was passed by the Senate, but ran into problems on the House floor and the Speaker ruled that it was out of order since it was a revenue bill that did not start in the House.
- SB2 would attempt to fix the massive shortfall in the state pension system. The Senate passed provisions created by a commission that was appointed to study the system and devise a solution. The House came up with an entirely separate plan so SB2 is in limbo at the time of this writing.

Librarians, trustees, and friends have been calling and contacting their legislators on numerous occasions. On February 20, KPLA hosted Library Legislative Day in Frankfort. There was a very strong showing of library supporters from around the state. Photos were taken of new legislators to create READ posters. Resolutions were adopted in the House and Senate in honor of libraries and also in memory of Lori Acton, Director of the Laurel County Library who passed away in January.

Budget news

The good news is that state revenues have been sufficient to meet budget requirements so it appears we will not be taking a state budget reduction this year for the first time in 5 years.

The bad news is that sequestration of federal funding became a reality at the end of February so funding from the Library Services and Technology Act was reduced by 5% annually which means a reduction of approximately \$125,000 for KDLA. We have revised our budget for this year by not funding the Kentucky Guide Program from federal funding, shifting technology costs, reducing outreach costs paid directly to libraries, and reducing the amount paid for trainers by using local talent.

Filling Staff positions

With the resolution of the federal budget, KDLA is proceeding with filling 4 staff vacancies. Last year the staff member who worked with libraries on adult programming left for a job elsewhere. That position will be replaced with one to focus on providing e-rate support for libraries. The e-rate program allows libraries to obtain rebates for telecommunications costs. Using funding from a Gates Foundation grant, KDLA obtained the services of a person who managed this for the last 2 years. Libraries received more than \$1 million as a result. As the grant ends in July, we hope to be able to continue this service.

Other staff positions that will be filled include a Resource Management Analyst who will work with agencies to create or update the records retention schedule. This position has been vacant for about 6 months and we want to continue momentum that has built in this process over the last few years. Two positions at the State Records Center will be filled as we prepare to move to the new records center at the end of 2013.

IT Consolidation

The big news in state government has been the Executive Order issued in late October to consolidate IT services across state government. This is a massive reorganization that will involve hundreds of state government employees and require the centralization of all IT equipment and services in most all state agencies. The consolidation comes at an opportune time for KDLA as our IT staff has been shrinking in recent years while our infrastructure is aging. As a result, we asked that the consolidation proceed ahead of schedule and some actions have already taken place. A complete assessment of IT resources and issues has been completed. We expect an implementation plan in June with the effective date of July 1. Three KDLA staff members have been detailed to the Commonwealth Office of Technology.

Kentucky Literacy Week Celebration

Kentucky Literacy Week Celebration was held Mar 4-8. The First Lady visited libraries across the state. Many libraries held events in commemoration. Rupp Arena was filled with 4th graders for a major celebration of reading.

Strategic Plan revision

KDLA management is in the process of revising the strategic plan for the next few years. The current plan was adopted in 2007. Resources are much different and needs are very different than 6 years ago. The plan will focus on the next 3 years.

BTOP wrap-up

The very successful federal grant program that enabled KDLA to fund expansion of public computing centers at 45 libraries will be coming to a close in July. This program resulted from the stimulus program. Results have been dramatic and transformed services at many of the libraries. Over the next few months, the final reports will be written and the project will be closed out. KDLA staff has spent many, many hours managing this program, but it has been well worth the effort.

Summer plans

We are continuing our collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Education for summer reading. A new app for using the Lexile formula has been developed that we will be promoting with KDE. We will also be partnering with the Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust again this year to promote KESP and offer a scholarship to one child from each region of the state.

We will also build on the successful program conducted for the first time last year in which libraries collaborated with local school districts to promote summer reading for children who were participating in the summer lunch program. Charlene Davis and her staff learned much from the program and hope to include more libraries in the program this year.

Leadership Development

In an effort to build stronger leadership for libraries, several efforts will take place this year. KDLA will continue the very popular Public Library Institute this year with 24 participants from across the state. The Trustee Certification program continues to grow in number and additional locally developed training will be unveiled at the KPLA conference in April. The Kentucky Library Association will inaugurate a leadership program for librarians of all types of libraries this fall.

Annual reports from public libraries

Annual reports have been received from all 119 public libraries for the 2011-12 fiscal year. We will be compiling the statistics and looking for trends, but we can report on totals in some areas. Kentucky's public libraries circulated 29,708,255 items, a decrease of 1.5% over the previous year. The libraries reported 19,872,461 visits which is a decrease of 1.2% from the previous year. Libraries own 7,696 computer terminals, which is an increase of 10.4% over the previous year. We'll have more statistics to provide at the meeting.

Exemplary Libraries

Congratulations to the libraries in Boone County, Boyd County, Kenton County, McCracken County, and Warren County that attained exemplary status as determined

by the Kentucky Public Library Standards. Thirty additional libraries attained enhanced status and 39 achieved essential status.

State Records Center

We are awaiting groundbreaking for the new State Records Center in Frankfort. Staff is in the process of selecting a software package for managing the records. Planning the move of 200,000 boxes, shelving, and equipment will begin soon.

submitted by Wayne Onkst